

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 218188

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 11783 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 01 SEP 76

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 11783

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJ: GOE LEGAL POSITION ON BUFFER ZONE

REF: CAIRO 10489

1. DURING MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECTS SEPT 1,
DIRECTOR MFA LEGAL DEPARTMENT, NABIL AL-ARABY, TOLD
EMBOFFS OF RECENT GOE ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH ITS LEGAL
POSITION REGARDING BUFFER ZONE. HE SAID THAT GOE
BELIEVES IT HAS RIGHT TO EXERCISE FULL SOVEREIGNTY
IN BUFFER ZONE AND CAN TAKE ANY ACTIONS IT DESIRES WITH
EXPECTION OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED BY SINAI II.
FOR EXAMPLE, ENTRY INTO THE BUFFER ZONE SHOULD BE
RESTRICTED TO THOSE PROSSESSING EGYPTIAN ID CARDS, WHICH
UNEF THEN STAMPS. SOME TIME AGO GOE HAD NOTED THAT
PERSONS (BEDOUINS FROM ISRAELI-OCCUPIED SINAI AND GAZA STUDENTS

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AND OTHERS) WERE ENTERING BZ WITH ISRAELI ID CARDS

AS WELL AS VEHICLES WITH ISRAELI LICENSE PLATES. THEY HAD BROUGHT THIS MATTER TO ATTENTION OF UN AND SEC GEN WALDHEIM HAD RESPONDED BY SENDING HIS DEPUTY JAMES JONAH TO CAIRO IN EARLY JULY. GOE HAD BELIEVED THAT UN WOULD NOT DISPUTE EGYPT'S CLAIM OF FULL SOVEREIGNTY, BUT IT WANTED TO BE CERTAIN BEFORE TAKING ACTION SUCH AS SIGNING OF OIL EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES. JONAH HAD APPARENTLY SAID HE MUST CONSULT WITH WALDHEIM BEFORE RESPONDING.

2. AL-ARABY SAID GOE STILL AWAITING WALDHEIM'S RESPONSE. LATEST NEWS AL-ARABY HAD WAS TELEGRAM FROM EGYPTIAN MISSION IN NEW YORK STATING THAT WALDHEIM HAD DECIDED TO CONSULT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER BEFORE REPLYING.

3. AL-ARABY SAID THAT EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY ALSO EXTENDS TO TERRITORIAL WATERS NORTH OF BZ. HE NOTED THAT ISRAEL HAD "CLEVERLY" FIXED EASTERN END OF BUFFER ZONE SO THAT ONLY ENTRY TO LAKE BARDAWIL IS ON ISRAELI SIDE OF BUFFER ZONE. THUS, EGYPTIAN FISHERMAN FROM PORT SAID HAD TO OBTAIN ISRAELI PERMISSION TO ENTER LAKE. GOE HAS INSTRUCTED FISHERMAN NOT TO ENTER LAKE.

4. ASIDE FROM ID CARDS AND OIL EXPLORATION CONCESSIONS, AL-ARABY DID NOT MENTION OTHER ACTIONS GOE MAY BE CONTEMPLATING TO EXERCISE ITS SOVEREIGNTY.
EILTS

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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